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SOME RECORDS OF TRIPLE MONSTERS AMONG SALMONID FISHES

SINCE there are few records of triple monsters among fishes and since in fact this type of monstrosity is very rare, the following records are interesting.

All of the specimens except one were seen at the hatchery of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries at Erwin, Tenn., and three of them are in the collection of the Superintendent. The writer has the remaining specimens. All are of the same type, that is, anadidymous, or divided anteriorly, only two of them being partially anakatadidymous. In this connection it should be mentioned that there is no record of a perfectly anakatadidymous triple monster. Briefly described, the specimens are as follows.

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), three specimens:

1. The three embryos are of equal size and equally spaced about the yolk. The three bodies are separate as far back as the vent. All of the heads have eyes and mouths.
2. Similar to the first, except only one head is perfect, the other two being defective in the lack of eyes.

3. Partially anakatadidymous. One of the bodies is single headed and perfect while the other body is smaller and two headed. Both heads are without eyes or mouths.

Rainbow trout (*Salmo shasta*), two specimens:

4. One specimen had reached an advanced stage of development. The yolk had been absorbed and the fish was capable of feeding. The main body was large and perfect as far back as the vent. The two subordinate bodies were very small and scarcely recognizable as such since they appeared as a broadening in the ventral region of the larger body. Two very imperfect bodies however could be traced. There were no heads and indeed the only external evidence left was the triplicity in the caudal and anal fins and in the very small paired fins. A similar monster has been described in detail by Gemmil in his work on the teratology of fishes.

5. Two of the embryoes of large size, the third being very much reduced. Division as far as the caudal peducle.

Little Redfish (*Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlyi*):

6. Partially anakatadidymous, one twin being perfect while the other is of the type where the forward part of the head only has been divided. This body is reduced in size and otherwise malformed. There is one broad eye formed by fusion of the optic vesicles. It is believed that this is the first record of a triple monster in this species.

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CONCERNING THE GENUS HYBOPSIS OF AGASSIZ

FOR some time the writer has felt that the genus called *Hybopsis* by Jordan & Evermann was a composite group, and that the name *Hybopsis* does not belong to any of its members.

In 1854, Professor Agassiz described a new genus of minnows under the name of *Hybopsis*, his type being *Hybopsis gracilis* Agassiz. This species was identified by Jordan & Gilbert in 1882 with *Ceraticthys hyalinus* Cope, supposed to be the same as *Rutilus amblops* Rafinesque. But Agassiz's account applies equally to some one of the small minnows of the group called *Alburnops* by Girard. Of this group *Alburnops blennius* Girard is type. The two species, *blennius* and *hyalinus*, are much alike, except for the conspicuous barbel present in the latter. This character, undoubtedly of generic value, is not mentioned by Agassiz, and we cannot well suppose that he overlooked it. As Rafinesque did not notice a barbel in his *Rutilus amblops*, we should apparently not use his name or that of Agassiz for a species showing that character.

The name *Hybopsis*, in my judgment, should be restored to the *Alburnops* group, in which the name *gracilis* has priority over *blennius*, *stramineus*, *deliciosus*, *missuriensis*, and other recognized synonyms.

In the genus *Hybopsis*, as defined by Jordan & Evermann (1896), the various subgenera mentioned should all, besides some others, be regarded as distinct genera. We should, I think, recognize the following groups as genera:

Extrarius Jordan (1919); *tetranemus*; barbels four.

Macrhybopsis Cockerell & Alliston (1909); *gelidus*;
very slender forms with large scales.

Erimystax Jordan (1882) (*dissimilis*).

Erimonax Jordan (new genus); type *Ceratichthys monacus* Cope; much like *Erimystax*, but the scales small, 50 to 56; the eye small.

Erinemus Jordan 1876 (*hyalinus*) = *Hybopsis* Jordan & Gilbert, not of Agassiz.

Yuriria Jordan & Evermann (1896); *altus*.

Nocomis Girard (1856); *nebrascensis* = *kentuckiensis*.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

A CASE OF SIMULTANEOUS POLYANDRY IN SNAKES

IN early May, 1905, near my cottage at Forest Lake, Campbellsport, Wis., I witnessed a case of double mating. While walking through the woods, I came upon a very large female garter snake. On her back were two smaller snakes, serving her. They were both about two and a half feet long and three-quarters of an inch thick, and were lying parallel to each other, their heads close together. Their tails swung under that of the big female, one on each side. I watched them for over five minutes, the snakes showing no alarm, as I was very quiet. Suddenly we were disturbed by a dog, which I kept quiet for a while but which eventually crept slowly to the snakes and gently pushed the big snake over. As it did so, the nearer male dropped off and slunk away. I could not determine whether both hemipenes had been inserted. As the dog continued to push the snake, the other male dropped off. Then the female quietly glided away. Both males were unquestionably mated with the single female.

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A FIFTH RECORD OF THE PACIFIC LEATHER-BACK TURTLE ON THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA

As there are only four records of the capture of the Pacific leather-back turtle, *Dermochelys schlegelii*, on the coast of California, any additional information is of interest.

The California Academy of Sciences recently received, as a gift from the San Francisco International Fish Company, a large turtle of this species, with the following details of its capture on Monterey Bay.

Serafino Canepa, in his fishing boat number B 510, was five miles southeast of Santa Cruz, on July 25, 1923, when he or his companions saw the turtle floating asleep upon the water. They approached and hooked it with a gaff, but, before they could secure it, it got off the gaff and swam about a quarter of a mile before they could get near enough to gaff it again. This time, as they turned the turtle over on its back, it dove, and the propeller of the boat struck and stunned it. The fishermen then threw a rope around its neck and towed it in to Santa Cruz.

A few days later, when delivered to us, this turtle, a male, weighed 1,286 lbs. Its total length, from tip of snout to end of tail was about eight and a half feet. The distance from tip to tip of the extended front flippers was eight feet, eight inches. The carapace was five feet, two inches, long and three feet, six inches, wide. The head and neck extended twenty-one inches beyond the carapace, and the tail about eighteen inches, of which six inches were beyond the vent.

There were no stomach contents.

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PSEUDOTRITON MONTANUS NEAR WASHINGTON

WHILE COLLECTING last September in tidal marshes on the Virginia side of the Potomac about a mile above Little Hunting Creek I took a specimen of *Pseudotriton montanus montanus* (Baird). Since few specimens of this salamander are known from any nearer the type locality (South Mountain near Carlisle, Pa.) than North Carolina, my find seemed to establish a connecting link between the animal's divided ranges. But the discovery of a single specimen was insufficient basis for any definite conclusion, and it was suggested that finding the animal in a tidal marsh, a habitat not usually selected by salamanders of this genus, might indicate that it had been brought down from the mountains by the river. This suggestion may have been based upon a high-altitude habitat implied by the animal's specific name;—locality records of *montanus* seem to show a piedmont rather than a mountain range.

E. J. Court took me Feb. 3 to a spring a half mile below Mt. Vernon and about 500 ft. from the river, where he said he had seen red salamanders. The spring emptied a good volume of water into a barrel nearly filled with mud and decaying leaves. I collected several *Pseudotriton ruber ruber* from under stones around the barrel and from the streamlet which flowed from it about 12 ft. into a bog. I was surprised to find a *montanus* under a stone in the streamlet. The mud in the barrel yielded three more. By digging back a foot or so into the water table I found two more, as well as several more *ruber*. In throwing out the mud from the bog we collected several large larvae of *Pseudotriton*. While nearly all of the *ruber* were found out of the water under the surrounding leaves and

stones, all the *montanus* were taken in the deepest part of the spring.

Besides the *Pseudotriton* these species were taken in and around the spring: *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus*, *Eurycea bislineata bislineata*, *Plethodon cinereus* and *Acris gryllus*.

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SOME POLYNESIAN LIZARDS

Two further alcoholic collections have been received since my former note (*Copeia*, Apr., 1923) concerning reptiles collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. These total 1249 specimens and were all collected on islands of the Tuamotu Arch, with two exceptions (Vavitaö, Austral Islands, and Maitea, Society Islands). As in other notes appearing in *Copeia* (100, 104, 116, 117) by K. P. Schmidt and the writer, the island names used are those given by Brigham (1900) in his *Index to the Islands of the Pacific Ocean*. The numbers of specimens of each species from each island follows:

Peropus mutilatus (Wiegmann): Manihi 2, Takapoto 2, Hiti 1, Makemo 1, Katiu 1.

Lepidodactylus lugubris (Dumeril & Bibron): Arutua 17, Ahii (Ahi, Ahe) 9, Manihi 30, Takapoto 11, Takaroa 14, Kawehe (Kauehi) 2, Raraka 20, Fakarawo 5, (Faaite (Faite) 5, Takoume (Takurea) 1, Makemo 2, Aratika 1, Toau 2, Apataki 7, Matahiva 23.

Gehyra oceanica (Lesson): Ahii (Ahi, Ahe) 1, Manihi 7, Takapoto 2, Takaroa 1, Kawehe (Kauehi) 2, Raraka 2, Tahanea 2, Fakarawo 6, Faaite (Faite) 23, Takoume, (Takurea) 4, Raroia 10, Katiu 10, Taiaro 3, Aratika 9, Toau 3, Apataki 3, Kaukura 7, Rangiroa 4, Tikahau 9, Matahiva 5.

Leiopisma noctua (Lesson): Arutua 14, Ahii (Ahi, Ahe) 29, Manihi 37, Takaroa 47, Takapoto 53, Kawehe

(Kauehi) 16, Raraka 40, Tahanea 1, Fakarawo 24, Takoume (Takurea) 12, Raroia 7, Makemo 5, Katiu 9, Taiaro 12, Aratika 9, Toau 3, Apataki 22, Kaukura 4, Rangiroa 1, Tikahau 2, Maitea (Mehetia) 2, Matahiva 7.

Emoia cyanurum (Lesson): Arutua 16, Ahii (Ahi, Ahe) 27, Vavitao (Ravaivai) 1, Manihi 122, Takapoto 48, Takaroa 57, Kawehe (Kauehi) 29, Raraka 31, Tahanea 3, Fakarawo 19, Hiti 1, Takoume (Takurea) 10, Raroia 7, Makemo 11, Katiu 28, Taiaro 7, Aratika 16, Toau 6, Apataki 27, Kaukura 6, Maitea (Mehetia) 8, Matahiva 21.

Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus (Wiegmann): Arutua 18, Ahii (Ahi, Ahe) 7, Manihi 33, Takapoto 7, Takaroa 8, Kawehe (Kauehi) 2, Tahanea 5, Fakarawo 4, Hiti 3, Takoume (Takurea) 8, Makemo 3, Katiu 6, Taiaro 1, Aratika 4, Toau 2, Apataki 2, Kaukura 2, Matahiva 8.

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THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *DIADOPHIS AMABILIS SIMILIS*

THROUGH some error after the last proof was read, the type locality of *Diadophis amabilis similis** was printed "Carmel, Monterey County, Calif.", instead of San Diego, Calif. The number of the specimen, 57897, is correct as printed.

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*Blanchard, Frank N. Occasional Papers, Museum of Zoölogy, University of Michigan, no. 142, 1923, p. 4.

